



DATE: 19-05-09

TO: Clinical Care Providers and Laboratory Services of Saskatchewan

FROM: Dr. Oksana Prokopchuk-Gauk, Northern Saskatchewan Consultant, Transfusion Medicine
Dr. Ted Alport, Interim Southern Saskatchewan Consultant, Transfusion Medicine

RE: **Amber Phase Blood Shortage Advisory Impacting Subcutaneous Immunoglobulin**

As of May 8, 2019, Canadian Blood Services (CBS) has declared an **Amber Phase Blood Shortage Advisory impacting the subcutaneous immunoglobulin (SCIg) product, Cuvitru®**. Intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIg) products are in adequate supply. Please see the appended National Inventory Shortage Advisory for details.

This **Amber Phase Blood Shortage Advisory** implies that the national SCIg inventory is insufficient to continue with current transfusion practices and specific measures will need to be implemented in order to reduce SCIg usage. A national physician and patient working group will be meeting in the next few days to develop recommendations on how to address SCIg demand, which will be disseminated once available.

There is an anticipated impact to patient care during this SCIg shortage. Due to the shortage of larger SCIg vial sizes in the context of this overall supply shortage affecting hospital inventory, patients may be issued smaller SCIg vial sizes (and a greater total number of vials) for product administration. Clinical care providers may also be asked to limit patient transition from IVIg to SCIg until national stocks recover. We recognize these measures may lead to significant patient inconvenience.

The existing SCIg supply in Saskatchewan will be monitored carefully. It is anticipated that this advisory will be in effect for several months, as SCIg stock is not expected to stabilize until the fall. Further communication and updates will be distributed as information becomes available, and will be posted at www.saskblood.ca.

Please disseminate this information to departments, teams and patients who may be impacted by this advisory.

Sincerely,

Oksana Prokopchuk-Gauk, MD, FRCPC
Transfusion Medicine Consultant, Northern
Saskatchewan
Saskatchewan Health Authority
306-655-2186 (office)
oksana.prokopchuk-gauk@saskhealthauthority.ca

Edward C. Alport, MD, FRCPC
Interim Transfusion Medicine Consultant, Southern
Saskatchewan
Saskatchewan Health Authority
306-766-2244 (office)
edward.alport@saskhealthauthority.ca

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